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REMARKS OF JAMES DUDLEY MORGAN ON
THE PAPER BY MR. ALLEN C. CLARK, ON
GENERAL VAN NESS, NOVEMBER 26,
1918, BEFORE THE COLUMBIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

There can be nothing added to the fullness and the pleasure of the paper by Mr. Clark, but I simply wish to call attention to the disputes that David Burnes had with the Commissioners and to say that there were others like Major L'Enfant and Samuel Davidson—an original proprietor—who also had many contentions with the Commissioners. Major L'Enfant, as you know, refused to receive further orders from anyone but President Washington, and quit; and Samuel Davidson was in a long acrimonious discussion with the Commissioners, principally, as to his property contiguous to what is now Lafayette Square, and on which David Burnes' property abutted. Both Davidson and Burnes appealed to Major L'Enfant and David Burnes¹ letter follows:

“Monsieur L'Enfant,

“The respect you have ever shown me and the Gratitude that exists in my Breast for you cannot allow me to remain a silent friend. I take the liberty of addressing a few lines to you hoping you will accept of this as a small tribute of gratitude, untill I can make a Journey to Philadelphia this fall, at which time I hope to be gratified with your company; it is a source of information and agreeableness. I hope you can give me some information on the subject of dispute between the Commissioners and myself which I expect will be ended

¹ Original in possession of Dr. James D. Morgan.

next Spring. I hope you will do me the favor to write to me whether I can see you at Philadelphia about November next.

“Your very Hble Serv.

“(Signed) DAVID BURNES.

th

“July 24 1794.”